

**RESOLUTION**

Resolution: 105A.20

SUBJECT: Drug Deactivation

SUBMITTED BY: North Georgia Mountains Medical Society

REFERRED TO: Reference Committee A

1 Whereas, all drug overdose death categories in Georgia decreased except for synthetic opioids and  
2 fentanyl from 2018-2019; and  
3

4 Whereas, from 2010 to 2019, the total number of opioid-involved overdose deaths occurring in Georgia  
5 increased by 78%, from 514 to 913 deaths; and  
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7 Whereas, numerous opioid prescriptions are written each year in the state are left partially unused or  
8 unwanted in medicine cabinets for years at a time, and studies have demonstrated that more than half of  
9 opioid misusers obtained a controlled substance from a family member or friend and 80 percent of heroin  
10 users were introduced to opioids through a legitimate prescription; and  
11

12 Whereas, the increased prevalence of drug takeback days and takeback boxes in public spaces, while  
13 playing a positive role, have not demonstrated an ability to truly curb abuse or diversion or spur a  
14 significant behavioral change in proper disposal or deactivation of unused or unwanted opioids; and  
15

16 Whereas, the improper disposal of opioids, often flushed down a toilet or thrown away with household  
17 trash that can then leach out into the water system from a landfill or septic system, has a detrimental  
18 impact on Georgia’s water system, waterways, wetlands, drinking water and wildlife; and  
19

20 Whereas, recent surveys have indicated 90% of the Americans do not appropriately dispose of expired,  
21 unused, or unwanted prescription drugs, and recent studies published in the Journal of American Medical  
22 Association (JAMA) have demonstrated that patients are forty-three times more likely to safely and  
23 adequately dispose of those unused drugs when provided an at-home drug deactivation bag; now therefore  
24 be it  
25

26 **RESOLVED, that the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) supports the co-dispensing of at-**  
27 **home drug deactivation and disposal bags with an opioid prescribed for pain that is filled at a**  
28 **regulated pharmacy site in the state; and be it further**  
29

30 **RESOLVED, that MAG’s support of any at-home drug deactivation and disposal system is**  
31 **contingent on that system permanently rendering the active pharmaceutical ingredient non-**  
32 **retrievable and unusable for all practical purposes (pursuant to 21 CFR 1300.05) and entirely non-**  
33 **toxic at the point it enters the waste systems.**

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**AMA Policy**

Safe Use, Storage and Disposal of Leftover Opioids and Other Controlled Substances D-95.971

Our AMA and its Opioid Task Force: (1) will continue to adapt current educational materials to distribute to prescribers and patients, emphasizing the importance of safe storage and disposal of opioids, and encouraging prescribers and patients to investigate and advocate for more local drug take back programs; (2) encourages all prescribers to work with local organizations and pharmacists to develop and disseminate the most up-to-date information on local Take Back resources; and (3) will continue to educate all prescribers on the importance of optimal use of opioids, including appropriately limiting the quantities of opioid prescriptions and advocating for e-prescription capabilities for controlled substances.

**MAG Policy**

None.